

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system for retrieving object definition information comprising one or more software objects in 5 encoded in computer readable form, said one or more objects having at least one interface defined in a first notation, said one or more objects encapsulating object definition information specified in a second notation, said second notation being different from said first notation.

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3. The system of claim 1, wherein said second notation
15 comprises ASN.1.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said second notation comprises GDMO.

20 5. The system of claim 1, said system further comprising an
metadata repository.

6. The system of claim 5, said system further comprising a dynamic gateway for manipulating objects defined at least in part in said second notation by means of invocations on interfaces defined in said first notation.

7. A method for accessing object definition information stored in one or more software objects residing in computer memory, comprising the steps of invoking said one or more objects by means of at least one interface specified in a first notation, said one or more object returning in response to said invocation object definition information specified in a second notation.

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9. The method of claim 7, wherein said second notation comprises ASN.1.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein said second notation comprises GDMO.

11. A system for storing object definition information comprising a parser for object definition information, an object factory for instantiating objects encapsulating said object definition information, said objects having pre-defined interfaces.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects have interfaces defined in CORBA IDL.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a CORBA server utilizing the CORBA Dynamic Skeleton Interface.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects encapsulate ASN.1 object definition information.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects encapsulate GDMO object definition information.

16. The system of claim 12, further comprising a root encapsulator object for resolving object definition name information into an object reference for an encapsulator object corresponding to an object definition type.

17. A software object comprising an interface defined in a first notation for manipulating an object at least partially defined in a second notation, said second notation being different from said first notation.

18. The software object of claim 17, wherein said first notation comprises CORBA IDL.

19. The software object of claim 18, wherein said second notation comprises ASN.1.

20. The software object of claim 17, wherein said second notation comprises GDMO.

21. A method of constructing an object invocation comprising the steps of:
instantiating an object collection of objects
10 corresponding to rules specifying the syntax of said object invocation;
receiving information of the content of the object invocation; and
interrogating the object collection with the information
15 to determine a set of objects sufficient to construct the invocation.

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